

Application Serial No.: 10/021,963

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Amendment dated: February 15, 2006

Response to Office Action dated November 17, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

(a) a transcription promoter;

(b) a DNA segment encoding a protein of from 51 to 81 amino acid residues in length, said protein comprising ~~a sequence of~~ amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from residue 6 through residue 56; and

(c) a transcription terminator.

10. (Original) The expression vector of claim 9 further comprising a secretory signal sequence operably linked to the DNA segment.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 9 wherein said protein consists of residues 6 through 56 of SEQ ID NO:2.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The expression vector of claim 9 wherein said protein is from 51 to 59 residues in length.

15. (Original) The expression vector of claim 10 wherein said vector further comprises a second DNA segment encoding an affinity tag operably linked to the DNA segment encoding the protein.

16. (Original) The expression vector of claim 15 wherein said affinity tag is maltose binding protein, polyhistidine, or Glu-Tyr-Met-Pro-Met-Glu (SEQ ID NO:6).

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17. (Original) A cultured cell containing an expression vector according to claim 9, wherein said cell expresses the DNA segment.

18. (Original) A method of making a protein comprising:  
culturing a cell according to claim 17 under conditions whereby said DNA segment is expressed; and  
recovering the protein encoded by the DNA segment.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 9 wherein said protein comprises residues 1-59 of SEQ ID NO:2.

21. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 9 wherein said protein consists of residues 1-59 of SEQ ID NO:2.

22. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 15 wherein said vector further comprises a third DNA segment encoding a proteolytic cleavage site, wherein said third DNA segment is positioned between said DNA segment encoding a protein and said second DNA segment.

23. (Previously presented) The cell of claim 17 wherein said protein is from 51 to 59 residues in length.

24. (Previously presented) The cell of claim 17 wherein said protein comprises residues 1-59 of SEQ ID NO:2.

25. (Previously presented) The cell of claim 17 wherein said protein consists of residues 1-59 of SEQ ID NO:2.

26. (Previously presented) The cell of claim 17 wherein said protein consists of residues 6-56 of SEQ ID NO:2.

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27. (Previously presented) The cell of claim 17 wherein the expression vector further comprises a secretory signal sequence operably linked to the DNA segment.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the expression vector further comprises a secretory signal sequence operably linked to the DNA segment and wherein the protein encoded by the DNA segment is secreted into and recovered from a culture medium in which the cell is cultured.